



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



The Groundplane

Volume 12 Issue 4

April 2011

First Annual ARRL East Bay Section Convention

The ARRL East Bay Section and the California Historical Radio Society are co-sponsoring the First Annual ARRL East Bay Section Convention.

The event will be held at the KRE Building - Home of the California Historical Radio Society, Bay Area Radio Museum, and W6CF Memorial Station.

Admission is free. The convention is scheduled for June 4 from 0900 to 1300 hours. at- 601 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, CA

Contact – Jim Latham,
AF6AQ by email at
af6aq@arrl.net

Planned Activities;

- Swap Meet (No fee) - Gate opens 0800. No selling activity until 0900
- DXCC Card Checking (also VUCC, WAS and WAC cards)

- Speakers

— Kristen McIntyre,
K6WX – “PSK-31 on iPad: A Personal Journey”

— Bruce Perens
K6BP – “Codec 2, the new codec written by hams, for digital voice”

- East Bay Section
ARES Leadership Meeting (for ECs and above)

- ARRL Forum/Open Section meeting.

- Drawing for door prizes.

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April Keynote

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) proudly serves those who serve. Rolf Schmidt will explain MARS and how they use HF frequencies throughout the spectrum using voice and digital modes to pass traffic. MARS can help you can create sharp emergency message passing skills or just give you an excuse to open up your radio.

Rolf is KI6WMS as an Amateur Extra and member of the Alameda County Sheriff Communication Team, a registered RACES unit. He is also NNN0EFL, his Navy MARS call sign as the Navy MARS trainer for Northern California. If you've wondered about MARS and wanted to know how they fit into the ham world, or what you could do to help our service people, bring your questions.

EM-COM Info

Tri-City ARES

Web site: www.fremontares.org

Contact: Joe Pistrutto, N3CKF

CERT Comm—Fremont

Web site: www.fremontcert.org

Contact: Jim Thomas, KI6TCE

CERT Comm—Newark

Contact: Mike Berke KI6EGL

Sonoma Hamfest

Jim Hill, K6UUW invites all the members of SBARA to our annual Hamfest in Sonoma.

The event date is this April 30th.

Activities include breakfast, swap meet, VE session, station demonstrations and fox hunt.

There is a flyer and map on our website, www.vomarc.org under Annual Events.

Happy Birthday!

Happy 1st Birthday to the Youth-Net,

This net was created and is run by Ryan Lee K3SFG, age 15, a Fremont resident.

YouthNet will be one year old on April 10th. Kids under the age of 18 have checked in from as far away as Washington and Canada and as third party guests.

Swap Meets

LARK Swap Meet

Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) holds its monthly swap meet (in Livermore) the first Sunday of each month from March through November.

The seller's entrance will open at 6:15 AM, and the buyers gates open at 7 AM through 11:30 AM.

Seller's spaces are available for \$15 to \$45 and buyers enjoy free admission.

For more information, visit

<http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html>

Electronics Flea Market

The first Electronics Flea Market of 2011 at De Anza College is scheduled for this Saturday, March 12th from 5:00 AM 'til noon.

Your host and beneficiary for this month's market is the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

More information and directions may be found at the Electronics Flea Market web site at

<http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

Repeaters and Nets

Repeaters

WA6PWW: 147.015+ 600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW: 223.900- 500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW: 442.600+ 5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR: 441.525+ 5Mhz, PL 123.0

Nets

9 am Talk Net: M-F, 9am-11am, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

25-25 Net: Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. 144.230MHz USB

ARES Net: Tuesday @ 7:30pm, 147.015 + PL 103.5

FARS Net: Thursday @ 8:00pm, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

Slow Speed (CW) Net: Tue/Sun 7:30 pm, 144.175 (+/- KHz as needed)

Youth Net: Saturdays, 2pm, (N6NFI) 145.230- PL 100.0

LPRC Net: Thursdays @8:00 p.m., (N6IJ) 146.640 PL 162.2

What is M.A.R.S?



The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a United States Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force. The program is a civilian auxiliary consisting primarily of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in assisting the military with communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

The MARS programs also include active duty, reserve, and National Guard units; Navy, Marine Corps, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ships, and Coast Guard cutters and shore stations.

MARS has a long history of providing worldwide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need. The combined three-service MARS programs (Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps) volunteer force of over 5,000 dedicated and skilled amateur radio operators provide the backbone of the MARS program. The main benefit of MARS membership is enjoying the amateur radio hobby through an ever-expanding horizon of MARS service to the nation. MARS members work by the slogan "Proudly serving those who serve".

Newark ARES/CERT

Next Meeting

Our monthly meeting is the usual 2nd Thursday of the month, 14-April-2011, 7-8PM, at Newark Fire Station #28 at Thornton Ave and Ash St. We will review the "Urban Search for CERT and ARES" training that some of us attended last month. We will also be reviewing Emergency Message Passing. Light refreshments will be served.

Newark has NCS duties this month for the Weekly Net, and we will be conducting Emergency Message Passing Practice after the Net. We have Net Control duties this month for the Tuesday Night Weekly Net (at 1930 hours on 147.015+, PL103.5).

We have most of the Net Control slots filled, but please contact me if you would like to help out. We will also be running Emergency Message Passing Nets after the Weekly Nets are closed this month. We will

most likely be using Newark Primary Simplex frequency, 446.600, for the Emergency Message Passing Nets, since the ACFD repeater is apparently down.

The frequency will be announced as a QST during the regular Weekly Nets.

EMCOMM West is being held in Reno again this year, May 6-8. I've attached an e-mail with information to this Newsletter.

The next Tri-City HAM License Exam Sessions in Fremont are listed at www.sbara.org. The Volunteer Examiner (VE) group organized by Rita KI6SSQ and Bernhard AE6YN continues to enjoy great success. They have been instrumental in producing a lot of new HAM operators and upgrades in our area.

The next few test sessions are:

April 12	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
May 14	Saturday 9:00 a.m.

The next HAM Cram is April 23rd in Los Altos: <http://www.baears.com/>



Tri City VE Group Behind The Scenes

Radio personality Paul Harvey was famous for a segment called, “The Rest of The Story” where he’d explain what really went on behind a headline. This made me think about what’s behind the scenes for our Tri City VE Group.

It’s ‘show time” once a month for us, and our goal is to produce a supportive environment for the candidate and make their experience easy and memorable.

So, how do we achieve this? First is location, location, location. We’re very fortunate to have Hurricane Electric as our sponsoring location. The street location is perfect for our “Ham Test” signs, which have attracted attention.

Another advantage of the location is the size of the space we’ve been allowed to use. When you took your exam, was it in a small room? Examiners talking, papers shuffling, new candidates entering and leaving? The Tri City VE Group has the luxury to be able to separate the exam room from the registration area, allowing the exam room to be a quiet zone. All the better to cut down on distractions and aid concentration.

Originally we had candidates wait in the comfortable reception area and then be escorted in groups of five upstairs to testing, but we’ve changed. Now candidates come upstairs, enjoy munchies as they wait, relax and talk with VEs, and ask any last minute questions.

Registration has changed too. The NVEC 605 form had been filled out manually which had the potential for errors or illegibility, but we’ve improved. Now the candidate enters all the data into a computer so the 605, the Candidate Docket and the Answer Sheet all have the correct data and it’s readable, which is a big plus for the FCC filing.

Candidates move from the waiting area to the data entry area, then to the registration table to have identification verified, make payment and then receive their exam.

Finally, they are escorted into the exam room where we have a proctor and examiners ready to assist and grade.

After the exam, the candidate is taken out of the exam room and meets the Congratulations staff that provide a welcome kit stuffed with terrific information. They are invited to talk on the radio to make their first contact or make their first call as an AG or AE.

The Rest of The Story for our Tri City VEs is that we get to share in the thrill of the candidate’s success and know that we’ve helped advance our fun hobby.

73,

Rita Derbas KI6SSQ and Bernhard Hailer AE6YN

As a matter of interest...

I am fascinated by the idea that cryptic transmissions (called Numbers Stations) still exist today, long passed the so-called end of the Cold War. Occasionally, I will scan HF frequencies in the hopes to find one, but as yet, nothing. Still, research on the Internet has helped me to discover sound bites from several identified Numbers Stations. Some in German, some in Spanish, some in English, and some in languages that escape me. I've listened to those I could understand, but as expected, I have no idea what they mean. Typically, they are a series of numbers that are repeated. One stream of numbers was 643 643 118 118 8389 8389.

The American television series, "Lost" featured a radio beacon that transmitted the numbers 4 8 15 16 23 42. A popular British television series "MI-5" (AKA "Spooks") featured numbered station like transmissions of Russian origins that triggered a nuclear attack on England.

Numbers Station

Numbers stations (or number stations) are shortwave radio stations of uncertain origin. In the 1950s, Time magazine reported that the numbers stations first appeared shortly after the war (World War II) and were using a format that had been used to send weather data during that war.

Numbers stations generally broadcast artificially generated voices reading streams of numbers, words, letters (sometimes using a spelling alphabet), tunes or Morse code. They are in a wide variety of languages and the voices are usually female, although sometimes men's or children's voices are used.

Evidence supports popular assumptions that the broadcasts are used to send messages to spies. This usage has not been publicly acknowledged by any government that may operate a numbers station, although two QSLs have been received from numbers stations by shortwave listeners who sent reception reports to said stations, which is the expected behaviour of a non-clandestine station.

In 2001, the United States tried the Cuban Five on the charge of spying for Cuba. That group had received and decoded messages that had been broadcast from a Cuban numbers station.[1] Also in 2001, Ana Belen Montes, a senior US Defense Intelligence Agency analyst, was arrested and charged with espionage. The federal prosecutors stated: "Montes communicated with the Cuban Intelligence Service through encrypted messages and received her instructions through encrypted shortwave transmissions from Cuba". In 2006, Carlos Alvarez and his wife, Elsa, were arrested and charged with espionage. The U.S. District Court Florida stated: "defendants would receive assignments via shortwave radio transmissions".

In June 2009, the United States similarly charged Walter Kendall Myers with conspiracy to spy for Cuba and receiving and decoding messages broadcast from a numbers station operated by the Cuban Intelligence Service to further that conspiracy.[2][3]

It has been reported that the United States uses numbers stations to communicate encoded information to persons in other countries.[1] The state department operated several stations, such as KKN50, that broadcast similar "numbers" messages.

Numbers stations appear and disappear over time (although some follow regular schedules), and their overall activity has decreased since the early 1990s.[

--From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

SBARA

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Founded 1974

Our meeting location is at:

Hurricane Electric, 60
Mission Court Fremont, Ca.

Come to the meeting and
bring your; Go Pack, HF
Rig, HT, and Antennas!!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

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The Ground Plane — KU6S

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